

For Immediate Release

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**BLM FIRE OFFICIALS TO IMPLEMENT PRESCRIBED FIRE
IN TOOELE COUNTY
LOCATED NEAR DUGWAY**

Salt Lake City, UT...June 21, 2006...Fire Officials of the Salt Lake Field Office (SLFO), BLM in coordination with county and state fire experts intend to light a prescribed burn, called Salt Desert Shrub #1 & #2, on Thursday, June 22, 2006 at approximately 12:00 p.m. The prescribed burn area is located near Dugway Proving Grounds in Tooele County. The burn is aimed toward reducing a continuous stand of highly flammable cheat grass in order to reduce suppression costs, improve firefighter safety and enhance property protection in the west desert.

Currently cheat grass provides an abundant fine fuels base that allows wildland fires to burn quickly. The Salt Lake Field Office is initiating this prescribed fire in an effort to create a grid of less flammable vegetation strips (Green Strips) throughout the area to break up the fuels which will reduce the size and complexity of wildland fires in the area. Proposed fuel reduction projects such as Salt Desert Shrub #1 & #2 are part of implementing the National Fire Plan.

When finished, the Salt Desert Shrub #1 & #2 project will have created approximately 12,894 acres of Green Strip. The units have been prioritized and scheduled to be burned according to need and funding. Following the burn, units will be seeded with a mixture of native and non-native plant species in order to reduce the potential of catastrophic wildland fire burning across BLM managed lands, other federal, state, private, and tribal land-which place natural resources, communities and associated infrastructures at risk while improving rangeland health to the Great Basin ecosystem.

Information and links about wildland fire in Utah can be found on the Internet at www.utahfireinfo.gov.

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